

Preston & District Model Railway Society

Annual General Meeting

Monday, 7th October 2019 at 7:30 pm

Minutes

Meeting started at 1930. There were 28 members in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

2. The minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM had been on the notice board six weeks and the web site for several months, giving everyone a chance to read them for approval.

They were approved unanimously.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

4. Chairman's report

Good evening and a warm welcome to all and especially to any of our new members attending. The exhibition in March was as usual a great success and again many thanks to Les for all his hard work in organising it.

Work on existing layouts within the club progresses at a steady pace:

Euxton Junction has the approach ramps to the platforms now being constructed and if the small one is anything to go by the larger more complicated one should be really impressive – well done Bill

In the back room Karl's N gauge layout which is DCC is nearing completion and looking very good with a lot of attention now being given to minor detailing, working signals, wiring to telegraph poles, buildings etc.

The other back room (off the main club rooms) re-wiring and scenic work is taking place to the late Rev. Hocking's layout, well done to those working on it.

Rayton has had some scenic work undertaken and lighting installed in a few of the buildings – may the good work being done by Ted continue.

A new N gauge layout has been planned and initial approval has been given by the Committee to the group working on this project to continue – a full update will be given by Andy later in the meeting.

Carl has had a new power supply building and ancillary masts constructed and put in place on Alderford more in keeping with the location of the layout, hopefully this should stop comments about a southern area power box being on a northern area layout.

Access to the club rooms has been made easier by the installation of the bridge at the entrance and also some shelving has been installed in a few rooms - many thanks to Blackpool Dave for his contribution to the funding of these projects.

A mention must be made to Tom who has worked tirelessly in organising the library and I will ask him to give a brief description of how to use it later in the meeting.

Layouts that have attended exhibitions are as follows:

Euxton Junction (club layout)– Preston March this year

Great Endon – (Jeremy's layout) DEMU and Glasgow both this year

Alderford – (Carl's layout) Wigan Saturday and yesterday.

Coketown – (Dave's layout) Preston March this year

Les has been covering the length and breadth of the country not only with his layouts but also doing his demonstrations far too numerous locations to mention.

Finally, a word of thanks must go to all who attend the exhibitions with the various layouts that represent the club, in helping to load the vans, set up, operate, dismantle, etc. It is really appreciated because without your help these layouts would never go out.

All these layouts do show to the public and any potential members the high standard of modelling competence within the club, not only on the finished appearance of the layout but also the stock that appears on them, it's a credit to all concerned.

The modelling competition was held in February with a reasonable amount of entries the list of winners can be found on the club website in the members only section. There will be more said on the modelling competition later in the meeting.

As usual over the past few years Alan has come along and given a varied programme of films and talks, unfortunately a few of you had left last year before seeing a short film on the Blackpool tram system that used to run as far as Lytham. Alan has been asked to start his talk this year showing this film and if for no other reason it's a good historical record of how Lytham has expanded, I can strongly recommend that you stay if only just to see this film.

Just a comment on the fact that recently Mick Sutcliffe passed away. For those who didn't know him he was a founder member of the reformed club back in the sixties and served the club well, both in his various roles on the committee and in layout building and exhibiting. He was one of a few members who broke away from us to form the POG group. 5 members of our club did attend his funeral last Wednesday.

Questions

There were no questions.

5. Secretary's report

The club now has a Facebook page. This is a trial, to see what the response is. It is hoped young members, such as UCLAN students, will find us more easily.

Questions

There were no questions.

6. Treasurer's report

The accounts for the year were presented. The current account had dropped from £624.94 to £478.89. The deposit account had not been used, £16,031.18.

The subs are not enough to cover the expenses arising from the club rooms. It is therefore important that members continue to donate to the tray whenever they attend. The recommended amount is 25p, but we are happy to see £1!

Membership has been pretty constant, with a few people leaving, but a similar number of new members, but it is unfortunate that there have been no junior members in the last 12 months.

It was noted that the electricity bill was high. Heating was left on one day last winter; it is vital all heaters are turned off when the rooms are vacated.

Questions

There were no questions.

7. Auditors report

Trends are very much the same. Overall we lost about £150, about 2% of the turnover. Accounts are in a very good state.

8. Election of committee members.

Dave Winder had been forced to drop out of the committee for personal reasons, and Michael Duffey-Price had stood in temporarily. Neither wanted to re-stand.

New member, Tom Springett was proposed: *Les* seconded: *Nev*.

All other positions remained the same. This was accepted unanimously.

9. The exhibition

After making a loss of £5.5k in 2018 when the show was cancelled, 2019 was a great success, with numbers up than previously – possibly due to the TV show.

Compared to other shows, we do very well, making a significant profit, and we are well-regarded on the circuit.

For 2020, we have 20 trade stands (one still to hear from, but five in reserve), 18 layouts (2 less than last year, but bigger layouts), including Minorities, plus demos.

10. Club Library Catalogue

Tom talked about the catalogue he had created, the details of which are in a PDF on the web site, so not recorded here.

The committee thanked Tom for his work.

11. New N gauge layout

The progress on the new N gauge layout was discussed. The committee had been unwilling to sanction money until after the exhibition, however, this meant Mike was unable to do the wood cutting, which had originally been planned for the Christmas quiet period. There were also fewer people around for a variety of reason.

The plan is still to proceed, hopefully Mike can be persuaded to do the wood cutting next Christmas.

12. Proposal: Increase membership subscriptions

JF proposed a 50p per month increase to all subscription rates to cover increased costs. Seconded by JW.

The motion was carried unanimously.

13. Proposal: Reduce the number of categories for the modelling competition

Currently there are three categories each (locos, rolling stock, scenic) in the three scales: OO, greater than OO, smaller than OO. In the last three years there has been only one entry across all three categories in the larger than OO scales. That is not a competition!

AKJ proposed either:

Option 1: A single category for all larger than OO scale entries (this would give seven categories in total)

Option 2: Divide the scales into two, rather than three, i.e., OO and larger; smaller than OO (this would give six categories in total)

There was a general agreement, though the exact details were not resolved.

14: Proposal: Re-introduce membership cards

Five or so years ago, we had membership cards that were signed off each year. These could be used to get a discount at Transport Models, though I believe this can be obtained just by saying you are a member. It has been suggested that we should nevertheless get membership cards.

AKJ proposed that we could buy a pack of business cards in October/November, marked up for 2020, hand them out at the club (not posted!) during December and onwards once the treasurer has

confirmed subscriptions are being paid. The card would be valid for the next calendar year. Order a new set of cards each year. This would cost about £5 a year.

It was agreed that this was a good idea.

15: Club rooms (end-of-lease)

We are coming to the end of the lease – though it was noted that no one knew where the lease is. JF said he would find out the exact date. The big question is whether to renew or find somewhere else.

The stairs are very much a problem, given the aging membership, and a ground floor site would be far preferable.

A new venue would need to be central, have good parking, similar floor space.

It was noted that Roger had already tried various options without success.

ND asked about the possibility of a stairlift. RB pointed out that when we moved into the current venue a lot of work had to be done; we may not have the expertise to do that now. KS wondered about the building we had the AGM in a few years ago, as it is not empty.

This is an on-going issue.

16 AOB

Martin said a few words about his father, Mick Sutcliffe, who had passed away a week or so earlier, and who had been a member of the club for many years before joining POGG, and had, in his time, been secretary, treasure and chairman. He offered thanks to those who attended the funeral.